

I LOVE YOU
B/2

Exciting TRUE LIFE STORIES

Complete



this issue

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COMICS
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AUTHORITY

No.
7

LOVE YOU

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION 10¢



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GIVEN!

BOYS! GIRLS!
LADIES! MEN!

WE GIVE YOU
CASH OR PREMIUMS!

GR-R-RRR!

JUDY and
JIM DEFY
SAVAGE
GORILLA!

HELP!

THE GORILLA
IS LOOSE!

STAND BACK!

I'VE GOT A
GUN!

GET
BACK!



Wilson Chem. Co. Dept. 99, Tyrone, Pa. WE ARE RELIABLE!

I LOVE YOU

Published bimonthly by Charlton Comics Group, Executive offices and office of publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Second Class mailing privileges authorized at the Post Office at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 10c. Subscription 12 issues \$1.20. Copyright 1955 by Charlton Comics Group.

Volume 1, Number 7

September, 1955

Gentlemen- Please send me on trial 14 color art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 35c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

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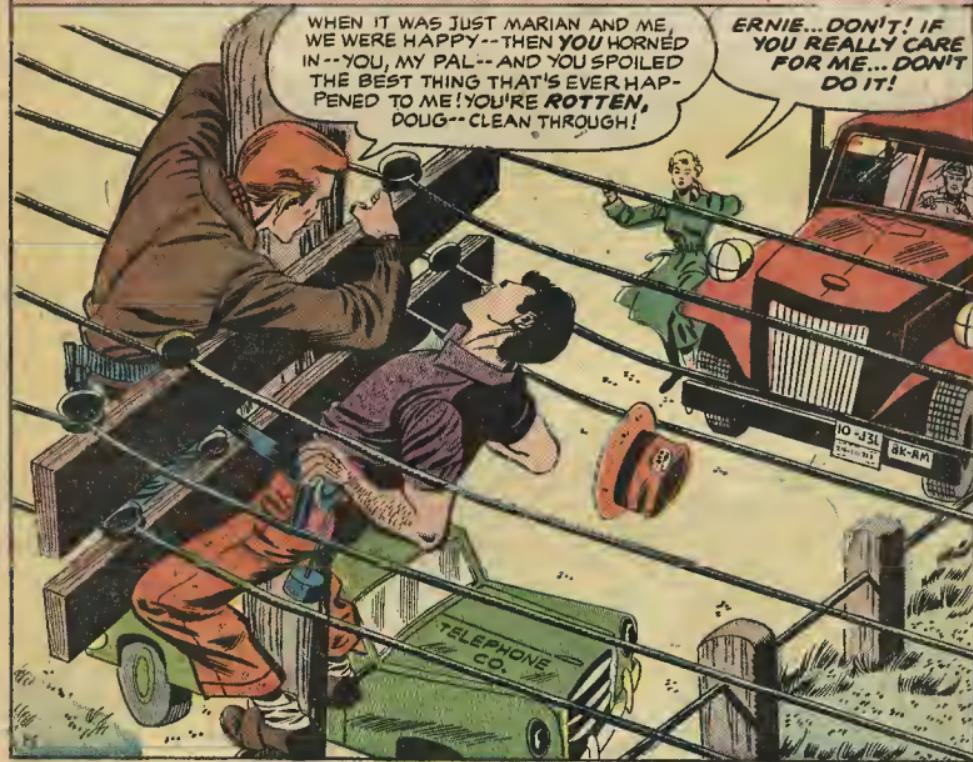
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I FOUND THE ONE MAN I COULD MARRY, ONLY TO LOSE HIM WHEN I LOST MY FICKLE HEART TO A NEW LOVE... A DASHING ROMEO, WHOSE OUTLOOK ON LOVE WAS...

DEVIL-MAY-CARE!



DURING THE
TWO YEARS
I WORKED
AT FRANK'S
DINER, I'D
HAD A COUPLE
OF DOZEN
PROPOSALS--
ALL OF
THEM FROM
TRUCK
DRIVERS--
AND THERE
WERE A LOT
OF THEM
I COULD
HAVE GONE
FOR--NICE
FELLOWS,
LIKE
PHIL
WHITE...



WHY? I'VE GOT A
GOOD JOB...I
DON'T THINK YOU
ENJOY SLINGING
HASH! OKAY,
MAYBE YOU DON'T
LOVE ME NOW...
BUT YOU MIGHT
LEARN TO CARE
A LITTLE!



I MIGHT LEARN TO
CARE A LOT, PHIL--
IF I LET MYSELF!
BUT HAVING A
HUSBAND WHO SPENDS
MOST OF HIS TIME
AWAY, ROLLING
ALONG SOME HIGHWAY
A THOUSAND MILES
FROM HOME ISN'T
MY IDEA OF
MARRIAGE!

SURE, I HATED SLINGING HASH, AS PHIL PUT IT-- AND I WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN A NICE HOME OF MY OWN. BUT I ALSO WANTED TO MARRY A MAN WHO WOULD COME HOME TO DINNER EVERY NIGHT! NONE OF THESE TRAILER JOCKEYS WOULD FILL THAT BILL...



MARIAN-- THAT'S A PRETTY NAME. AND YOU'RE A PRETTY GIRL! I'M GLAD THE PHONE COMPANY ASSIGNED ME TO THIS SECTION!

I HEARD THEY WERE SENDING A COUPLE OF NEW LINEMEN OUT HERE! WELCOME TO FRANK'S DINER... FOOD'S PRETTY GOOD!



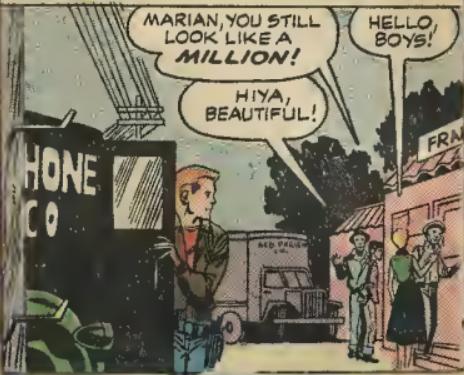
WE HAD MANY DATES TOGETHER, AND I KNEW ERNIE WAS FALLING IN LOVE WITH ME. I KNEW HE'D ASK ME TO MARRY HIM, AND I HAD MY ANSWER READY.

OH, YES, ERNIE... YES! I WILL MARRY YOU!

I'M THE LUCKIEST MAN IN THE WORLD, MARIAN--AND THE Happiest!



SO I WATCHED THEM COME AND GO. I WAITED FOR THE RIGHT ONE TO TURN UP, AND MY HEART ACHED FOR SOMEONE TO LOVE...



ERNIE BAKER CAME IN EVERY DAY AFTER THAT--AND I KNEW IT WAS MOSTLY TO SEE ME. HE SEEMED NICE ENOUGH, BUT NOT MY DREAM TYPE BY ANY MEANS--

THEY HAVE A GOOD MOVIE ON IN RIVERTON. WHAT DO YOU SAY WE SEE IT TONIGHT? AND WE CAN STOP IN FOR CHOW MEIN AFTER--

ALL RIGHT, ERNIE-- IT SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!



HE TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS, AND I FELT SECURE THERE! LOVE? I WASN'T SURE I LOVED ERNIE--BUT HE COULD GIVE ME THE THINGS I WANTED... A HOME, MOST OF ALL. AND HE'D BE THERE... EVERY NIGHT!



ERNIE WASN'T BEING CHEATED. HE WAS DELIRIOUSLY HAPPY, AND I DID NOTHING TO SPOIL THAT HAPPINESS. I PLANNED FOR OUR FUTURE HOME WITH AS MUCH ENTHUSIASM AS HE HAD HIMSELF---

--AND I'LL USE THE EXTRA ROOM AS A WORKSHOP! I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO PUTTER AROUND WITH MACHINERY AND TOOLS! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT, DEAR?

IT'S GOING TO BE A DREAM HOUSE, ERNIE! HOW SOON CAN THEY HAVE IT READY?



IN TWO MONTHS, MARIAN -- BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT TILL THEN TO GET MARRIED! I'M TOO MUCH IN LOVE WITH YOU TO WAIT! LOOK, HONEY -- I BOUGHT THIS FOR YOU!

MY ENGAGEMENT RING! OH, ERNIE -- PUT IT ON MY FINGER, NOW!

HE SLIPPED THE RING ON MY FINGER, AND I WAS MORE THRILLED THAN I HAD EVER BEEN IN MY LIFE! -- AND WHEN OUR LIPS MET AT THAT MOMENT, I SURELY FELT THAT I WAS IN LOVE WITH HIM --

ERNIE -- MY ERNIE...



MY FIRST SUNDAY OFF -- TWO WEEKS AFTER THE HOUSE WAS STARTED -- ERNIE DROVE ME OUT TO SEE IT. I WAS AS HAPPY AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT AS HE WAS --

IT'S LIKE SEEING A DREAM GROWING, ERNIE! WHY, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY HAVE SIX MORE WEEKS WORK!

I ASKED THEM TO MAKE IT SOONER IF THEY COULD. EVERY DAY OF WAITING SEEMS LIKE A YEAR TO ME, SWEETHEART!



I JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK LIKE WHEN I COME HOME IN THE EVENING AND SEE YOU STANDING THERE IN THE DOORWAY!

AND I CAN SEE HOW YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK COMING HOME! YOU'LL BE HANDSOME AND WONDERFUL... AND I'LL COUNT THE MINUTES EVERY DAY!



YES, MY WHOLE FUTURE WAS SETTLED ... AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I WAS CONTENTED. EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE GONE ACCORDING TO PLAN, TOO ... IF I HADN'T MET SOMEONE ELSE... SOMEONE ERNIE HIMSELF INTRODUCED ME TO...

MARIAN -- THIS IS DOUG GORDON! DOUG'S AN OLD PAL OF MINE, HONEY. WE STARTED WITH THE PHONE COMPANY TOGETHER!

THEY TRANSFERRED ME TO THIS ROUTE, TOO, MARIAN -- AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO ENJOY BEING OUT HERE!



WHEN WE SHOOK HANDS, DOUG SQUEEZED MY HAND A LITTLE MORE THAN WAS NECESSARY, AND I READ LITTLE THINGS IN HIS EYES -- LITTLE SECRETS OF LOVE HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN. EVEN THEN, I TRIED TO FIGHT OFF THE IDEA THAT HE'D EVER BE ANY MORE TO ME THAN JUST A FRIEND OF ERNIE'S...

I'M GLAD YOU'RE GOING TO BE AROUND, DOUG -- I - I MEAN, ERNIE AND I WILL ENJOY HAVING YOU WITH US!

WHAT'D I TELL YOU DOUG... QUITE A GIRL, EH?

QUITE A GIRL, ERNIE...



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To Amuse and Amaze Your Friends



A necessary tool for the amateur magician and a good joke too. Plastic, 14 inches long with white tips and a black center. 5 exciting tricks—Rises, jumps, produces silk, etc. No. 240.

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Talk, Sing, Play thru your radio

Sing, laugh, talk, crack jokes from an other room and your voice will be reproduced thru the radio! Fool everybody into thinking it's coming right out of the radio. Easily attached to most standard radios. Made of handsome enameled metal 4 inches high. No. 112.

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TRICK BASEBALL

It bounces cockeyed, it curves, it dips. It's impossible to catch. It's sure to set all the kids on the block spinning after it. There's a barrel of fun in every bounce of this amazing baseball. No. 158.

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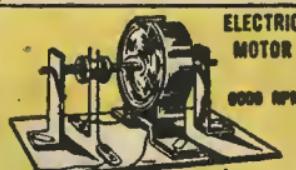


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Pocket Size . . . Brings in stations up to 1000 miles away

Modern electronics makes this wonderful set possible. So small it will fit in a pocket. Everything is supplied for you. Easy to assemble in a few minutes with just a screw driver. No soldering required. Really powerful too. Announcements of stations up to 1000 miles away come in so loud and clear you'd think they were right near home. Learn many useful and important things about radio. No. 205

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This is an offer that sounds unbelievable but it is being made just the same. Yes, you can have an actual electric motor for just 50¢. This compact little kit makes it a cinch to build this high-power motor and the fun you're going to get from using it, it's so simple and your motor is ready to turn out 6000 rpm's of power to work for you. The coils of this remarkable tool actually turn at the rate of 1500 feet per minute. No. 052

Only 50¢

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Ventro & Book

Your chance to be a ventriloquist. Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, and everywhere. Instrument fits in your mouth and out of sight. You'll fool the teacher, your friends, and your family and have fun doing it. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist". No. 137.

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Here's something new in target throwing. In case you miss, it comes right back to you, and bingo! you're all set to "fire" again. More fun than a "barrel of monkeys". No. 141.

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Your chance to have eyes in back of your head. See behind or alongside and no one knows you are watching. Fun everywhere you go. No. 146.

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WHOOPEE CUSHION

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Costume Set Designed for Every Boy



Style 160 — For you he-men, we've got the newest, most exciting and tremendous play suit of its time. A complete Superman outfit in fine durable washable rayon gabardine. Outfit includes red cape with screened Superman figure, navy and red suit with gilt figure "S", and belt. Be first to get this wonderful outfit. Sizes 4-14. 6.98



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ERNIE AND DOUG WERE THE BEST OF FRIENDS--BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP DOUG FROM TRYING TO DATE ME. I TURNED HIM DOWN AT FIRST, BUT HE HELD A CERTAIN FASCINATION FOR ME THAT I FOUND DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN!



I BROKE OFF MY DATE WITH ERNIE FOR THAT EVENING. ALL MY LIFE I'D WAITED FOR SOMEONE LIKE DOUG GOROON! HE HAD EVERYTHING ERNIE HAD, AND MORE--HE WAS HANDSOME, DASHING. WHEN HE CALLED FOR ME, I MET HIM OUTSIDE--AND I FELL INTO HIS ARMS...



BUT I'M WEARING HIS RING! HE'S BUILDING A HOME FOR US!

HE'LL FIND SOMEBODY ELSE... I KNOW HIM, BABY! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT WITH YOU AND ME. WE BELONG TOGETHER. WE'LL NEVER BE HAPPY WITH ANYONE ELSE!



OUR HAPPY MOMENTS TOGETHER BECAME MORE FREQUENT. ERNIE SENSED THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG, BUT HE NEVER GUessed THAT DOUG AND I WERE SEEING EACH OTHER--

YOU ALWAYS HAVE SOME EXCUSE, LATELY-- ARE YOU GETTING TIRED OF ME, MARIAN?

NO... NO, ERNIE. I JUST HAVEN'T BEEN TOO WELL, LATELY! BUT TONIGHT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.



SO I'D GO OUT ON DATES WITH ERNIE... AND I STILL TOLD HIM I LOVED HIM, BUT MY GOOD-NIGHT KISSES WOULDN'T LIE...



I WANTED TO BE SINCERE, GOODNESS KNOWS! I TRIED... I TRIED NOT TO FALL IN LOVE WITH DOUG! WHEN HE CAME AROUND THE NEXT DAY, I TRIED TO SEND HIM AWAY...

I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD SEE EACH OTHER--NOT TONIGHT--OR ANYTIME!

NOW WHAT HARM CAN THERE BE IN A LITTLE RIDE IN THE MOONLIGHT? I'LL BE A PERFECT GENTLEMAN!



THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG IN BEING IN LOVE WITH DOUG GORDON--I COULDN'T HELP THAT, BUT I FELT GUILTY ABOUT NOT TELLING ERNIE. HE WOULD HAVE TO KNOW SOME DAY...

SAY, MARIAN, I THOUGHT THINGS WERE ALL SET FOR YOU AND THAT PHONE COMPANY LINE-MAN, ERNIE BAKER! THEN I SEE YOU OUT DANCING WITH DOUG GORDON, ERNIE'S BUDDY!

I WISH I WAS IN DOUG'S SHOES...STEP-PING OUT WITH MARIAN EVERY NIGHT! MAYBE ERNIE DOESN'T KNOW--

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS WHAT DOUG AND I DO!

SO POOR OLD ERNIE IS BEING PLAYED FOR A CHUMP BY HIS BEST PAL, AND HIS GIRL! AREN'T YOU SCARED HE'LL FIND OUT?

I DIDN'T WAIT FOR ERNIE TO FIND OUT! THE NEXT TIME I SAW HIM, I TOLD HIM EXACTLY HOW I FELT--AND RETURNED THE RING TO HIM!

OH-OH! LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A BRAWL PENDING!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS IN MY OWN WAY!



ERNIE TURNED WITHOUT A WORD AND LEFT...

PHIL--DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL GO AFTER DOUG? I WOULDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO ERNIE!

TO ERNIE? --YOU JUST GAVE THE TIP-OFF ON SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOURSELF... YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ERNIE!

I GOT INTO THE TRUCK CAB WITH PHIL JUST AS ERNIE DROVE OFF THE LOT. WE FOLLOWED, BUT THAT BIG TRAILER TRUCK WAS AGONIZINGLY SLOW GETTING STARTED. BY THE TIME WE REACHED ERNIE AND DOUG, IT WAS TOO LATE...



THE NIGHTMARISS EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED LEFT ME DAZED. CARS STOPPED ON THE HIGHWAY... THEN THE POLICE CAR, AND LATER THE WAILING OF THE AMBULANCE SIREN--

ERNIE! YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN-- IT'S NOT HIS FAULT! PLEASE... LET HIM GO! TAKE ME--I MADE HIM DO IT!



THEY TOOK ERNIE AND DOUG AWAY,
AND SOON ONLY PHIL AND I
WERE THERE...

MARIAN, YOU'D
BETTER
LET ME
DRIVE YOU
BACK TO THE
DINER--

NO...I-I DON'T
WANT TO SEE
ANYBODY---I
JUST WANT TO BE
LEFT ALONE!

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I
WANDERED...AN HOUR, MAYBE.
I SOMEHOW REACHED OUR
HOUSE...THE HOME ERNIE
WAS BUILDING FOR ME...
BUT NOW I KNEW I WOULD
NEVER LIVE IN IT!



IT WAS AN EMPTY HOUSE...EMPTY
LIKE MY HEART! ONCE THIS WAS
TO BE THE HAVEN OF MY HAP-
PINESS. NOW I COULD ONLY SIT
THERE AND CRY OVER DREAMS
THAT WOULD NEVER COME TRUE!

I'VE WRECKED THREE LIVES--
MAYBE DOUG AND I HAD IT
COMING, BUT ERNIE...POOR
ERNIE...HE DIDN'T
DESERVE THIS!



HOW I HATED MYSELF THEN! HOW I PAID WITH
TORMENT FOR MY LIES AND DECEIT TO ERNIE!
AND THEN, THROUGH MY DAZED MIND, I HAD A
VISION--I THOUGHT I SAW ERNIE COME INTO
MY HOUSE OF BROKEN DREAMS--

ERNIE!

I WENT TO THE DINER,
SOMEBODY THERE TOLD ME
YOU CAME THIS WAY...



IT WAS REALLY MY ERNIE, AND WE WERE TOGETHER,
AND THROUGH MY SOBS I HEARD HIM EXPLAIN...

THEY HAD ME IN JAIL, THEN THEY
LET ME GO! THEY SAID DOUG
WOULDN'T BRING ANY CHARGE
AGAINST ME! I WENT TO SEE
HIM AT THE
HOSPITAL, AND HE
TOLD ME HE
HEARD YOU TRY
TO TAKE THE
BLAME! HE
SAID HE KNEW
THEN THAT
YOU LOVE ME!

I WAS TO BLAME
DEAR--BUT I
DO LOVE YOU!
I NEVER
KNEW HOW MUCH
TILL NOW!



OUR LIPS FOUND
EACH OTHER,
AND FOR
THE FIRST
TIME I
WAS SURE
THAT IT WAS
ERNIE.
IT HAD NEVER
BEEN
ANYONE
BUT ERNIE! MY
INFATUATION
FOR DOUG
WAS
WASHED
CLEAN OUT
OF MY
HEART
BY THAT
KISS!



I KNEW NOW WHAT REAL HAPPINESS WAS...

IT'LL BE FINISHED IN A
WEEK...THEN YOU'LL BE MRS.
ERNIE BAKER, AND I'LL
CARRY YOU ACROSS
THE THRESHOLD!

OUR HOME!
DARLING, IT'LL
BE THE KIND OF
A HOME YOU
DREAMED OF...THE
HAPPIEST HOME
IN THE WORLD!



THE END

PAMPERED AND SPOILED BY WEALTH, MARGOT GREW UP TO BE A LOVELY YOUNG WOMAN-- WITH THE THOUGHTLESS, MADCAP HEART OF A CHILD! ALL TOO LATE SHE WAS TO LEARN THAT LIFE IS NOT A GAME FOR CHILDREN... AND THAT SHE WHO GAMBLES WITH LOVE MUST BE PREPARED TO LOSE!

My Errant Heart



FOR YEARS I'D HELPED SPEND DAD'S DWINDLING FORTUNE WITH FOOLISH EXTRAVAGANCE! NOW, AFTER HIS DEATH THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT BUT THE STORE--MORTGAGED TO THE HILT; AND THIS RUGGEDLY HANDSOME MAN BEFORE ME WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HELP ME SALVAGE ANYTHING FROM THE RUINS!



ALL RIGHT, MISS DOANE, I'LL HELP YOU MAKE A GO OF IT--IF YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE READY TO BUCKLE DOWN AND LEARN THE BUSINESS FROM THE GROUND UP!

I'M READY, MR. REAGAN!

IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS I FOUND GARY REAGAN A HARD TASKMASTER, BUT A PATIENT AND UNDERSTANDING ONE! BEFORE LONG WE WERE FAST FRIENDS!

THERE YOU ARE, MARGOT, THEY TOLD ME I'D FIND YOU HELPING OUT IN THE BOOK DEPARTMENT!

THEY WERE SHORT HANDED TODAY. I SAID I WAS GOING TO LEARN THE BUSINESS FROM THE GROUND UP, REMEMBER?



I'M GLAD YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT IT! BY THE WAY, I'VE JUST READ YOUR SUGGESTIONS ABOUT OUR BARGAIN BASEMENT! THEY'RE NOT BAD AT ALL! WE'LL TALK ABOUT THEM TONIGHT AFTER HOURS!

ALL RIGHT, GARY, I'LL BE THERE!



I RETURNED TO MY WORK, MY HEART GLOWING WITH GLAD PREMONITION AT THE ADMIRATION IN GARY'S EYES! THOSE 'AFTER HOURS' CONFERENCES WERE COMING WITH A STRANGE REGULARITY! THEN ONE EVENING IT HAPPENED! WE WERE WORKING LATE OVER A SALES REPORT AND...

I THINK WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF BOOKS AND FIGURES FOR ONE DAY, GARY! I'M IN FAVOR OF ANOTHER HOUR WE COULD FINISH THE REPORT! IT'S ONLY SEVEN THIRTY!



SEVEN THIRTY--HMM! IF I HURRIED HOME TO DRESS, I'D STILL HAVE TIME TO MAKE THE LATE SHOW AT THE PALM GROVE--IF I HAD AN ESCORT!

WELL I...

THE PALM GROVE IS HARDLY THE PLACE FOR A YOUNG LADY WHO'S SWORN OFF GOOD TIMES--BUT YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARDO LATELY, AND A LITTLE RELAXATION NEVER HURT ANYONE!

OH GARY, YOU'RE A DEAR!



WHAT GLORIOUS EVENING WAS CROWDED WITH LAUGHTER AND GAIETY. I FOUND A GARY I NEVER KNEW EXISTED... A BREATHLESS, EXCITING GUY, WHOSE TOUCH FIRED MY VERY BEING! THAT NIGHT, AT MY DOOR HIS KISS TOLD ME THIS WAS THE BEGINNING FOR US BOTH!

GARY, SWEET!

MARGOT DEAREST!



MARGOT, THERE'S A LOT MORE I WANT TO SAY, BUT I'D RATHER SAVE IT! WE'LL TALK AGAIN, SERIOUSLY, WHEN THE STORE IS ON ITS FEET!

I UNDERSTAND, DARLING! BUT THAT KISS TOLD MY HEART ALL IT WANTS TO KNOW!

WORK AT THE STORE BECAME A PLEASURE NOW! AND EVEN THE MOST MONOTONOUS TASKS WERE EASY WHEN GARY WAS NEAR! BUT MORE THAN ONCE I FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO CONTROL MY UNDISCIPLINED LITTLE HEART!

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS, DARLING?

MARGOT!



AND NOW, YOU LITTLE MINX, WE'LL SAVE THE REST OF IT FOR TONIGHT! RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT THE BUYER'S CONFERENCE TO ATTEND!

GARY, WAIT! I--



GARY WAS RIGHT, OF COURSE! THAT WAS NEITHER THE TIME OR PLACE FOR LOVE! BUT STILL I RESENTED HIS ATTITUDE... ALL MY LIFE I'D HAD MY WAY!



HE CAN'T TREAT ME LIKE THAT! I WON'T HAVE IT! OH, IF I COULD ONLY TEACH HIM A LESSON!



MY CHANCE TO SHOW DISPLEASURE CAME SOONER THAN I EXPECTED! IT WAS THE NEXT DAY WHEN I WAS PRESENT AT A CONFERENCE BETWEEN GARY AND KEN BLAKE, THE ATTRACTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT!

BLAKE, YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG SLANT! WE'RE TRYING TO ATTRACT THE LOWER INCOME GROUP TO OUR SALE, BUT YOUR ADS CATER TO THE UPPERCrust!

BUT THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY IS, REAGAN! DOANE'S ALWAYS CATERED TO THE CARRIAGE TRADE!



PERHAPS THAT'S WHY THE STORE KEPT LOSING MONEY! ANYHOW, BLAKE, YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO MAKES THE POLICY HERE!

I DON'T WANT TO ARGUE! WHY REAGAN? WHY NOT LEAVE IT TO MISS DOANE'S JUDGEMENT? I'M SURE SHE'LL UNDERSTAND MY VIEWPOINT!



BLAKE'S REMARK WAS A CLEVER MANEUVER TO ENLIST MY SYMPATHIES, AND IN THE SUDDEN FLUSH OF GARY'S ANNOYANCE I SAW A CHANCE TO SOOTHE MY INDED VANITY!

FRANKLY GARY, IT'S MUCH MORE LOGICAL FOR OUR ADS TO APPEAL TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE MONEY TO SPEND!

BUT, MARGOT, ALL THE MERCHANDISE WE BOUGHT FOR THE SALE-- IT WOULD HARDLY APPEAL TO THE CREAM OF SOCIETY!

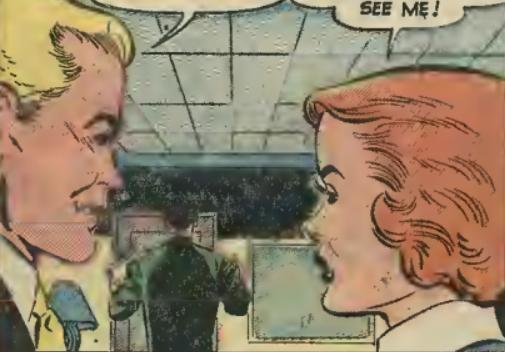
I ALLOWED A NOTE OF FIRMNESS TO ENTER MY VOICE--TO LET HIM KNOW, AND NOT TOO SUBTLY, THAT I HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THIS, TOO! GARY'S LIPS TIGHTENED IN THE FACE OF MY STUBBORNNESS!

EVERY WELL, WE'LL PUBLISH THE ADS AS THEY ARE! BUT REMEMBER, MARGOT--THIS SALE **MUST GO OVER! WE CAN'T RISK A FAILURE! THE STORE NEEDS THE MONEY TOO BADLY!**

THANKS FOR BACKING ME UP, MISS DOANE! I THINK WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE SOMEONE WITH YOUR SUPERIOR TASTES IN CHARGE HERE!

THANK YOU, MR. BLAKE! AND BY THE WAY, IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE DIFFICULTIES WITH MR. REAGAN JUST DROP IN TO SEE ME!

WELL, MR. HARD-TO-GET REAGAN-- IT LOOKS AS IF I'VE FOUND A WAY TO GET UNDER YOUR SKIN!



OH, TICKETS TO THE ANNUAL MASKED BALL OF THE ADVERTISING CLUB! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO ONE OF THEM! I'VE HEARD THEY'RE BRILLIANT AFFAIRS!

WELL, THAT CAN BE EASILY ARRANGED!

I'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE YOU, MARGOT!

THANK YOU, KEN! I'LL BE DELIGHTED TO GO!

l
**FOUND
KEN BLAKE'S
SUBTLE
FLATTERING
AND
DEFERENCE
REFRESHING,
AND GARY'S
REACTION
LED ME TO
CULTIVATE
MEN'S
ATTENTIONS
WHENEVER
GARY WAS
NEAR!**



POOR GARY! I'VE GOT HIM BURNING UP! AT LEAST I'VE DISCOVERED HE CAN BE JEALOUS DURING BUSINESS HOURS!



MY HEART STILL SICKENS AT THE PETTY FEELING OF TRIUMPH I FELT THEN! I WAS FEELING SUPERBLY CLEVER AND GAY WHEN I WENT TO THE BALL WITH KEN THAT NEXT WEEKEND! AS I DANCED, MY THOUGHTS WERE BACK IN THOSE MADCAP DAYS WHEN EVER SO TIMES WERE THE VERY PURPOSE OF MY EXISTENCE!



THAT NIGHT AT MY DOOR IT WAS KEN'S ARMS THAT WERE AROUND ME! AND THOUGH I TOLD MYSELF IT MEANT NOTHING, HIS KISS WAS A DARING CHALLENGE THAT SENT MY BLOOD RACING!



YES, KEN'S OBVIOUS FLATTERY AND OPEN ADMIRATION WENT TO MY HEAD LIKE WINE! BUT THAT WEEK MY THOUGHTS TURNED ABRUPTLY TO A MORE SERIOUS AFFAIR, AS THE SALE FOR WHICH KEN PLANNED THE ADS PROVED A FIASCO.

A HUNDRED THOUSAND INVESTED IN MERCHANDISE BOUGHT ESPECIALLY FOR THIS SALE AND A PITIFUL CUSTOMER RESPONSE! I WARNED YOU, MARGOT, THOSE ADS WOULDN'T DRAW A CROWD!



REALLY, REAGAN, YOU CAN'T EXPECT OUR CLIENTELE TO COME BARGAIN HUNTING! I THINK THIS ONLY PROVES MARGOT'S IDEA! DORNE'S MUST RETURN TO ITS OLD POLICY!



KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS



Staphylococcus albus



Corynebacterium acnes



Pityrosporum ovale

SAVE YOUR HAIR

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

Millions of trouble-breeding bacteria, living on your sick scalp (see above) are killed on contact. Ward's Formula kills not one, but *all 3* types of these destructive scalp germs now recognized by many medical authorities as a significant cause of baldness. Kill these germs—don't risk letting them kill your hair growth.

ENJOY THESE 5 BENEFITS IMMEDIATELY

1. Kills germs that retard normal hair growth—*on contact*
2. Removes ugly infectious dandruff—*fast*
3. Brings hair-nourishing blood to scalp—*quickly*
4. Stops annoying scalp itch and burn—*instantly*
5. Starts wonderful self-massaging action—*within 3 seconds*

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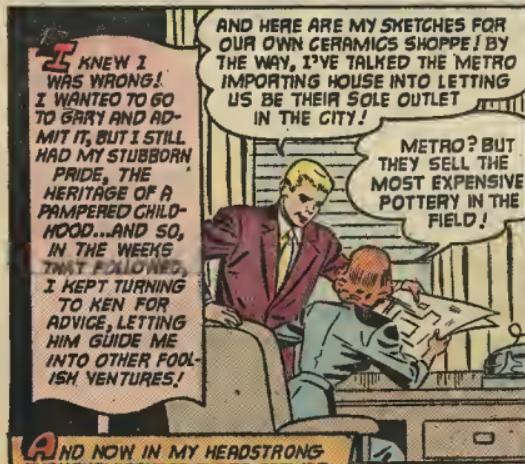
DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

GARY TURNED AWAY, ANGER AND RESENTMENT GATHERING IN HIS EYES! ALMOST EAGERLY I LISTENED TO KEN'S SOOTHING WORDS!

HE'S BEING CHILDISH AND STUBBORN, MARGOT! ONLY A BLIND MAN COULD FAIL TO SEE YOU'VE GOT THE CORRECT POLICY!

BUT THE SALE, KEN! WE'VE LOST A LOT OF MONEY AND...

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! I'VE GOT A FEW IDEAS THAT ARE SURE-FIRE! WE'LL RECOUP EVERY CENT OF IT--AND MORE! COME INTO MY OFFICE AND I'LL SHOW YOU!



A ND NOW IN MY HEADSTRONG THOUGHTLESSNESS, THERE SEEMED TO BE NO TURNING BACK! AGAIN AND AGAIN I IGNORED GARY'S SUPERIOR JUDGMENT AND EACH TIME I SANK DEEPER INTO A MORASS OF MY OWN MAKING! THE END WAS INEVITABLE!

WE'RE GOING DEEPER INTO THE RED EVERY DAY! OUR SALES ARE THE LOWEST IN YEARS, AND IT'S ALL DUE TO THE IDEAS BLAKE HAS TALKED YOU INTO INTRODUCING!

THIS PROVES ONLY ONE THING, GARY--YOU'RE JEALOUS OF KEN BECAUSE HIS IDEAS ARE MORE LOGICAL THAN YOURS! JEALOUS BECAUSE HE--HE PAYS MORE ATTENTION TO ME THAN YOU DO!

IF THAT'S YOUR OPINION, YOU'LL HAVE MY RESIGNATION TONIGHT! BUT THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO SAY!



YOU'RE JUST THE SAME SELF-WILLED, CAPRICIOUS LITTLE FOOL I ALWAYS HEARD YOU WERE, ONLY NOW YOU HAVE OTHER PLAYTHINGS TO TOY WITH.. THE STORE FOR ONE THING!

BUT I WON'T LET YOU MAKE A PLAYTHING OF MY LOVE! I'M SICK OF THE INFANILE WAY YOU'VE TRIED TO MAKE ME JEALOUS OF KEN BLAKE! I WAS A FOOL TO LET IT DRAG THIS LONG, BUT NOW WE'RE THROUGH!

GARY,
WAIT!
LISTEN!

THE SHOCK OF IT WAS TOO MUCH TO GRASP AT ONCE! I TOLD MYSELF I COULD MANAGE THE STORE WITHOUT GARY AND MY HEART AS WELL! BUT IN THE HOURS THAT FOLLOWED, THE ACHE WITHIN ME TOLD ME WHAT I'D LOST!

IT'S THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED, MARGOT! HE WAS HOLDING YOU BACK! WE'LL MANAGE WITHOUT HIM! I'LL BE RIGHT BESIDE YOU EVERY MINUTE!

NOT THANKS! I DON'T WANT THANKS FROM YOU, MARGOT!

NO, KEN!
NO--

BUT THOUGH I PROTESTED I ACCEPTED HIS KISSES, HOPING THEY'D HELP ME FORGET THE ACHING VOID WITHIN! IN DAYS THAT PASSED I BURIED MYSELF IN WORK, BUT AFFAIRS KEPT GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE! KEN WAS PRACTICALLY STORE MANAGER NOW, BUT HE WAS FAR LESS HELP THAN I'D NOPED!

KEN, THESE BILLS FROM METRO IMPORTING-- THEY'RE GROWING BIGGER EVERY DAY! OUR SALES JUST DON'T WARRANT BUYING ANY MORE STOCK!

BUT YOU KNOW MY PLANS, MARGOT! I WANTED TO MAKE OUR CERAMICS SHOP THE BIGGEST THING OF ITS MIND!

HERE--LOOK AT THIS SPREAD THEY GAVE US IN SWANK ILLUSTRATED! PUBLICITY LIKE THAT WILL MAKE ODEANE'S THE BIGGEST NAME IN THE RETAIL FIELD!

PERHAPS, KEN, BUT I WISH YOU'D FIND SOME WAY TO IMPROVE BUSINESS! MEETING OUR BANK PAYMENTS IS BECOMING MORE OF A STRUGGLE EACH WEEK!

AND NOW KEN BEGAN NEGLECTING HIS RESPONSIBILITY! SOON I FOUND OUT NOW UNOPENDABLE HE COULD BE!

NOW, MARGOT, WITH BUSINESS FALLING OFF THE WAY IT IS, COMING IN AT ELEVEN ISN'T SO SERIOUS! WE'RE SLOW!

BUT, KEN, IT'S A BAD EXAMPLE FOR THE EMPLOYEES! BESIDES, I DEPEND ON YOU--NEED YOU!

SWANK II

AND I NEED YOU TOO, MARGOT!
OH, DARLING, I CAN'T BEAR
GUARRELING WITH YOU!

KEN!
OH KEN!

AND SO
HE BOUGHT
HIMSELF OFF
WITH KISSES!
AND IN HIS
ARMS I TRIED
TO FORGET THE
"DESLATE
LONGING IN
MY HEART!
THEN ONE DAY,
THE TATTERED
REMNANTS OF
MY SHABBY
LITTLE WORLD
FELL TO PIECES,
AS THE BAHN
EXAMINERS
CAME TO
SEE ME!

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND OUR VIEW-
POINT, MISS DOANE! THE STORE OWES
US FAR MORE THAN IT CAN PAY! WE
CAN'T DELAY ACTION FOR MORE
THAN ANOTHER MONTH!

A MONTH?
I'VE GOT TO DO
SOMETHING! I'LL
SPEAK TO KEN!

FRANTICALLY I
SEARCHED THROUGH
THE STORE, BUT WHEN
AT LAST I FOUND HIM
—IT WAS IN THE ARMS
OF ONE OF OUR
PRETTIER SALESGIRLS!

PLEASE RETURN
TO YOUR COUNTER,
MISS GIBBONS!
MR. BLAKE AND I
HAVE SOMETHING
TO DISCUSS!

MISS DOANE!

DON'T BOTHER CRYING ON MY SHOULDER,
MARGOT! I ALREADY KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED!
AS A MATTER OF FACT I HAVE ANOTHER JOB
LINEUP! A NICE COZY SPOT
WITH METRO IMPORTING!

WH-WHAT?

METRO! SO THAT'S
WHY YOU WERE
BUYING UP ALL
THOSE CERAMICS!
YOU WERE BUSY
FEATHERING YOUR
OWN NEST!

YOU CAN FILL IN THE
DETAILS FOR YOURSELF,
MARGOT! I'VE GOT TO
GO NOW! 'BYE
SWEETHEART!

FOR A LONG MOMENT
I STOOD THERE, THE LAST
OF MY STRENGTH
EDDING FROM ME, AND
THEN SUDDENLY, I WAS
QUAKING WITH REMORSE,
WITH HOPELESS LONGING
AND HEARTBREAK!

SOB...OH GARY!
"GARY DARLING!
...SOB... HOW I
NEED YOU NOW!

BUT SOMEHOW, EVEN IN MY DESPAIR, I FOUND THE COURAGE TO GO ON! I SOLD MY HOME, SAWK THE LAST BIT OF MY SAVINGS INTO THE STORE, CHARGED THE POLICY-- BUT IT WAS ALL OVER IN A FEW WEEKS!

I'M SORRY, MISS DOANE! YOU'VE DONE YOUR LEVEL BEST BUT IT'S HOPELESS! THE STATE LAWS FORCE US TO TAKE OVER!

I REALIZE THE MATTER IS OUT OF YOUR HANDS, BUT THE THOUGHT OF CLOSING THE STORE...

YOU'RE WRONG, MISS DOANE! THE STORE'S NOT BEING CLOSED! WE'VE RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM A SYNDICATE WHICH PLANS TO KEEP IT IN OPERATION-- WITH BIG CHANGES!

OH, I'M SO GLAD! I'LL COOPERATE WITH THE NEW OWNERS IN EVERY WAY!

SIT WAS A WEEK LATER THAT THE SYNDICATE TOOK OVER! BUT WHEN THE NEW MANAGER WALKED IN I STOOD THERE STUNNED WITH SURPRISE!

GARY!

HELLO, MARGOT!

AHD THEN SUDDENLY THE STRAIN OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS WAS ALMOST TOO MUCH. I BIT MY LIP TO HOLD BACK THE TEARS!

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT FOR ME TO DO HERE! MY ACCOUNTANTS WILL GO OVER THE RECORDS WITH YOU!

THE BANK EXAMINERS TOLD ME WHAT YOU'VE DONE IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, HOW YOU TRIED TO SAVE THE STORE--PUT IN YOUR LAST CENT OF SAVINGS!

IT WAS THE LEAST I COULD DO, GARY--AFTER ALL I'D DONE TO DESTROY IT! BUT THAT'S ALL OVER! I'LL GO NOW! YOU'VE SEEN THE LAST OF ME!

MARGOT, WAIT! THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY!

MARGOT, I'LL HAVE A WORLD OF WORK HERE! AND I'LL NEED A SECRETARY TO HELP ME! NOT JUST TO TAKE DICTATION BUT SOMEONE TO WHOM RESPONSIBILITY IS A SERIOUS THING...TO WHOM THE STORE MEANS AS MUCH AS TO ME!

ALL RIGHT, GARY! IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL STAY!

I'D DO ANYTHING TO BE NEAR YOU AGAIN, MY DARLING...TO KNOW THE HOPE THAT ONE DAY I MAY FIND MY WAY INTO YOUR ARMS ONCE MORE!



THE GOOD FIXER

By Ruth Sterling

MARIAN JONAS hurried from work to the brownstone house where she lived with her mother. There was so much to do before Raymond came. She had to shower, change her clothes and prepare the food.

Tonight was special. Finally, after months, Raymond had agreed to come for dinner. Marian would prove to him that she could cook. Maybe then he might propose. She would show Raymond that dancing and parties weren't important. Raymond must be made to realize she wasn't like other girls—interested in him just because he was darkly handsome and had a lot of money. She wanted to settle down with a home and a family.

Her mother came in from the kitchen. "Marian dear, the roaster won't work. I plugged it in and nothing happened."

Marian sank into a chair and groaned. "Oh no—of all times. Well, we'll use the oven, or isn't that fixed either?"

"No, not yet," her mother said calmly.

"Oh Mother," Marian cried, exasperated. Her mother was sweet, but so undependable in a crisis. And this was a crisis. The wonderful dinner she had planned would be ruined.

"Maybe we could serve cold cuts," Mrs. Jonas suggested pleasantly.

Marian stared at her mother. "You can't invite a man to dinner and serve cold cuts. Not Raymond, anyway."

"Frankly," Mrs. Jonas said, "I don't think he deserves anything to eat at all. He's always breaking appointments, or coming late, or never calling."

Marian took a deep breath, her pretty mouth set in a firm line. "You may not care for Raymond, but I do. We've got to fix that roaster."

Mrs. Jonas shrugged. "If it means that much to you why don't you ask Pete Beldon, that nice young man who moved in a month ago down the hall? He said he was an engineer of electricity."

"An electrical engineer," Marian corrected her sharply. "I hardly know him, but he does seem rather pleasant." She glanced in the mirror. Her hair wasn't combed and her tiny nose

had a high shine. But that could wait. The roaster must be fixed first.

She rang his bell and stamped her foot impatiently. In a few minutes a lanky young man smoking a pipe opened the door. "Aha," he said, seizing her hand and practically dragging her into his apartment, "come in. I want to test this on you. Sit here." Marian looked around the room cluttered with wires, dials, tools and strange-looking boxes. Pete clamped a pair of earphones on her head. "What do you hear?"

"Nothing," Marian said. "Look, I came to ask you a favor—"

Pete turned a dial. "Now do you hear anything?"

"Noise. Please—this is a terrible emergency and I need—"

Pete removed the earphones. "Noise, she says. Young lady, do you know what you've been listening to? The music of the spheres. I have finally created an instrument sensitive enough to span the universe—to contact—"

"Would you please fix my roaster?" Marian begged. "I've got a guest for dinner and it won't work."

Pete looked at her, then a grin widened over his face. "Sure, man must eat as well as create. Lead the way."

"Thank goodness," Marian thought as she took him back to her apartment.

Pete examined the roaster carefully. "It just needs a new plug," he said. "I'll be right back."

"Isn't he nice?" Mrs. Jonas said when he left.

"If he can fix this, he is," Marian answered, glancing at the clock.

In a moment Pete was back. Marian had to admire the speed with which he worked. "Okay, good as new. What are you planning to cook?"

"Steak," Marian said hastily. "Thank you very much." She wished Pete would leave so she could dress and set the table, but he lingered.

"Steak? That must be a pretty special guest coming."

"He is," Marian said abruptly. Pete nodded

and went out, numbling something that sounded like, "Mighty lucky fellow."

"Now wasn't that sweet of him?" Mrs. Jonas asked. "We should have invited him, too. Poor boy, looked like he could use a home-cooked meal."

Marian snorted. Sometimes, Mother was impossible. "And," she said sarcastically, "what would Raymond think?"

"It might do him good," her mother said curtly.

"Oh, look at the time!" Marian gasped and flew into the bathroom and turned on the shower. In a half hour she felt fresh and pretty. Humming and excited, she took out the best linen and silverware. As a final touch she added flowers and the silver candlesticks. Everything was ready, but where was Raymond?

"He's late," Mrs. Jonas said, "as usual."

Marian paced about nervously. The salad was beginning to wilt. The candles were burning low.

Finally the phone rang. Marian rushed to answer.

"Honey," Raymond said, "I'm sorry. Won't be able to make it. Some last minute business. But say, there's a dance at the country club tomorrow evening. We'll have fun."

Marian barely heard him. The tears welled up in her and she was afraid she would cry right into the telephone.

"I knew it," Mrs. Jonas said as she watched her daughter's face. "I felt it in my bones. Well, there's no sense having good food go to waste. I'll invite that young man in to eat with us. Is that all right with you, dear?"

"I don't care," Marian said glumly.

Pete was delighted. "Haven't had such good food since I left home," he managed to say between mouthfuls. You're an excellent cook, Miss Jonas."

"Her first name is Marlan," her mother said, smiling.

The next evening Pete knocked on the door. "I'd like to repay you for that delicious dinner. I have two tickets to the symphony concert Saturday evening. Would you like to join me?"

Marian shook her head. She loved good music, but it would be wrong to go with Pete while she was dating Raymond. "Thanks anyway," she said, closing the door on Pete. Raymond was coming soon and she had to dress.

An hour later, he showed up, looking as handsome as ever. "Okay, honey, let's get going. There's going to be quite a crowd at the dance."

Marian hesitated. They were alone. Her

Mother had gone out to play bridge with some friends.. "Raymond, let's sit here for a while. Somehow, I never get a chance to talk to you. We're always either dancing or going to shows. I want to have a serious talk."

"Talk?" Raymond looked uncomfortable. "What's there to talk about, honey?"

"About us. About the future."

Raymond glanced at his wristwatch. "Some other time. The gang is waiting—"

"No," Marian said firmly, "now."

Suddenly the lights went out. The apartment was in utter darkness. Marian groped for the wall switch. No light. "Oh dear," she said, "Raymond, do something."

"Of course," his arms were around her, "how's about a kiss."

"No," Marian tried to push him off. "I didn't mean that."

"Aw, honey, don't be shy—the other girls enjoy the darkness. What's wrong with you, anyway?"

"The other girls?" Marian heard her voice rise in anger. "And I thought you—"

"Thought what, honey?" Raymond asked softly.

Marian took a deep breath. "I thought you were in a hurry to get to the dance. Well . . . get going—alone. Goodbye."

He started for the door, but since he didn't know his way around in the darkness, he bumped into something. "Ouch," he shouted. Marian flung open the door into the darkened hallway. "This is the way out."

Raymond headed for the staircase and disappeared.

The door opposite her opened. "Say," she heard Pete call, "that you, Marian? Lights go out in your apartment too?"

"It's pitch black," she said.

"My fault. I was fooling around with some electrical equipment. Must have made a short circuit. Did I hear someone yell?"

"Just a person I used to know."

SORRY to cause the trouble. Guess I'm not such a good fixer, after all. I'll run down to the basement and see if I can repair the damage."

"Oh Pete—" Marian called shyly.

"Yes?"

"You are a good fixer. You fixed things better than you thought. Is the invitation still open for the concert?"

"It sure is," Pete said happily.

THE END

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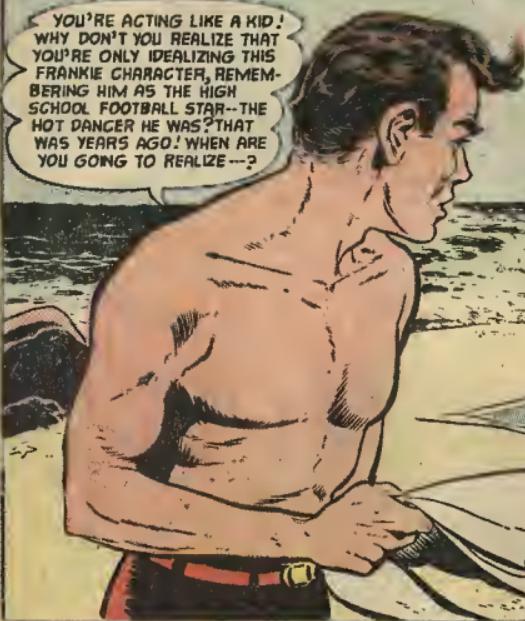
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MEMORY OF LOVE

Francie didn't stop to think about Lee--what he had meant to her! How he'd helped her feel needed--desired! Everything that had once been important she was callously discarding for a man she hadn't seen or heard from in four years!



The only thing I'm going to do--is walk out of your life! You've no right to say I don't know my own mind--or my own feelings!

LAYTON WAS A TYPICAL MIDDLE-SIZED COMMUNITY--IN A WAY AS TYPICAL AS LEE COMERS, MY BOYFRIEND--A NICE, AVERAGE FELLOW WHO TAUGHT SCIENCE AT THE LOCAL JR. HIGH! WE HAD BEEN GOING TOGETHER FOR OVER A YEAR, AND BY NOW, WE WERE A COMBINATION JUST ABOUT TAKEN FOR GRANTED!



The expression on his face was a dead giveaway before I even glanced at the jeweler's window aglitter with an assortment of rings!



WILL YOU, FRANCIE?

WITH THE PRESSURE OF HIS HANDS UPON MY ARMS, AND HIS FACE CLOSE ENOUGH TO MINE FOR A KISS---MY THOUGHTS DISSOLVED, AS THEY ALWAYS DID DURING SUCH MOMENTS--TO MEMORIES OF FRANKIE, THE FIRST BOY I DATED--ROMANCED--KISSED!

YOU'RE GORGEOUS!
I'D SAY YOU OUGHT TO
BE IN PICTURES, EXCEPT
I'D RATHER HAVE YOU
HERE--! LIKE THIS!

OHHH--
FRANKIE!

WELL, BABY--I'M TAKING
OFF! JUST AS I TOLD YOU I
WOULD ONE DAY! THIS TOWN
CRAMPS MY STYLE! I'VE
GOT SOME BIG IDEAS
THAT CAN'T MISS!

WRITE ME,
FRANKIE... TELL
ME EVERYTHING
YOU'RE DOING!

I'LL WAGER I
KNOW WHAT YOU
TWO CAME TO MY
STORE FOR!

HONEY--HONEY, YOU DIDN'T
ANSWER ME YET! ARE YOU
GOING TO LET ME MAKE
THE ENGAGEMENT
OFFICIAL?



Y-YES,
LEE!

THIS PUBLIC DISPLAY
OF AFFECTION IS HOT
ETIQUETTE--BUT RIGHT
NOW I'M SO HAPPY--
THE WHOLE WORLD CAN
HAVE AN EYEFUL!

NO USE THINKING ABOUT
FRANKIE... HE'LL NEVER COME
BACK! HE'S NEVER EVEN
WRITTEN ONCE--NEVER
COME TO SEE HIS
OWN FOLKS!

SHORT MINUTES LATER, I HELD MY LEFT
HAND, AND THE SMOOTH FINISHING OF
SILVER WAS SLIPPED UPON MY THIRD FIN-
GER! I WAS REMEMBERING THE GLASS RING
FRANKIE HAD ONCE PLACED UPON MY
FINGER!

-- DARLING!

I'M GOING TO LOOK
THE OTHER WAY AND
CHECK MY STOCK, YOUNG
MAN--SO YOU CAN TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE
MOMENT!





SURRENDERED TO THE SWEET, TENDER WARMTH OF HIS KISS! BUT EVEN AS I SHARED ITS RAPTURE--ALL THOUGHTS OF REAL LOVE WERE BOUND UP WITH FRANKIE BASSIN!

NOW WE OUGHT TO CELEBRATE--
REALLY GO OUT ON THE TOWN!
AND THAT'S EXACTLY
WHAT WE'RE GOING
TO DO!

I-I'D LIKE TO, LEE--AND I
REALLY DON'T LIKE TO SPOIL
THE OCCASION, BUT I FEEL KIND
OF SHAKY! I'D RATHER GO
HOME!



GOSH, HONEY--I'M SORRY!
I GUESS IT HAS BEEN A LOT OF
EXCITEMENT! BUT NO MATTER--
WE'LL HAVE YEARS AND
YEARS TO CELEBRATE!

I WAS
FEELING
MORE
MOODY THAN
USUAL, AND
I DIDN'T
STOP TO
RATIONALIZE
IT! I ONLY
KNEW I
WANTED TO
BE ALONE
SUDDENLY!
AS SOON AS
I ENTERED
THE HOUSE,
SOMETIME
AFTER, MOTHER
NOTICED THE
GLITTER ON MY
FINGER, AND...

OH--LEE'S GIVEN YOU
AN ENGAGEMENT RING!
ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL!
I'VE BEEN HOPEFUL HE WAS
THE BOY FOR YOU, DEAR!
LET ME HAVE A CLOSER
LOOK!

I--I WILL,
MOTHER, BUT
RIGHT NOW
I FEEL UPSET!
DO YOU MIND IF
I LIE DOWN IN
MY ROOM?

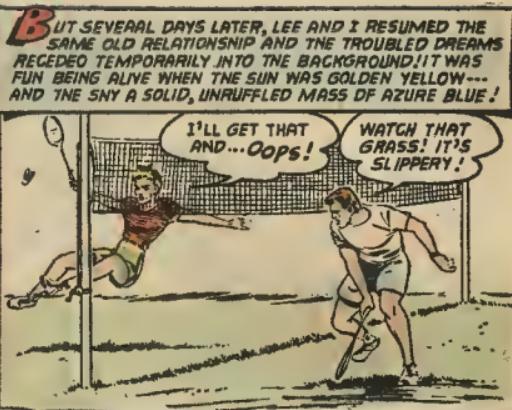


OF COURSE NOT, MY DEAR!
I UNDERSTAND IT'S A BIG AND
IMPORTANT EVENT AND IT TAKES A
BIT OF GETTING USED TO! I REMEMBER
I CRIED LIKE A BABY WHEN YOUR
FATHER GAVE ME A RING!

IT WAS STRANGE THAT NOW, WHEN I HAD MADE UP
MY MIND TO GIVE UP FRANKIE--THAT THE LONGING
FOR HIM BECAME THE MOST AGUTE!



HE WAS EVERYTHING I EVER
WANTED IN A MAN! STRONG AND
HANDSOME--AND WITH THE AMBITION
TO BEAT THE WORLD!



I TOLD MYSELF HE COULDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND --
BUT THERE WAS NO SENSE MAKING A POINT OF IT!
AND WHEN HE DREW ME CLOSE, I SOUGHT HIS EMBRACE
EAGERLY, TO HIDE MY BRIMMING TEARS. BUT ONCE IN
HIS ARMS, HIS ARDENT LIPS UPON MINE--MY MIND
WAS SEALED TO ALL OTHER THOUGHTS!



MAYBE EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN ALL RIGHT, HADN'T THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS BROUGHT WHAT THEY HAD--BUT I DOUTT IT! ALL THROUGH THE YEARS I WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN REMEMBERING FRANKIE AND HATING A PERVERSE FATE THAT HAD TORN US APART! ANYWAY, A WEEK LATER...

HI, HELEN--HOW COME YOU TOOK TIME OFF FROM THE SHOP TO DROP BY?

BECAUSE I'VE GOT NEWS--BIG NEWS! DO YOU KNOW WHO'S COMING BACK TO TOWN?

N--NO! I DON'T! TELL ME, HELEN!

OH, COME ON--YOU CAN GUESS!--FRANKIE!

IKNEW IT--SENSED IT, THE MOMENT I SAW THE EXCITEMENT ON HER FACE! BUT I WOULDN'T SAY IT--I DIDN'T DARE HOPE IT! WHEN SHE SPOKE HIS NAME--I FELT MYSELF GO LIMP WITH RISING EMOTION! I FOUGHT TO CONCEAL IT!

H--HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS? MAYBE IT'S JUST A RUMOR!

OH, NO--NIS MOTHER CAME INTO THE SHOP, TOLD ME SHE GOT A LETTER FROM HIM! HE'LL BE IN ON THE TWENTY-FOURTH!

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW! I'VE GOT TO BE GETTING BACK NOW!

FRANKIE IS COMING BACK! HE'S COMING BACK! AND IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF WEEKS!



ISIGHED, CLOSED MY EYES AND LEANED MY HEAD FORWARD AGAINST THE WINDOW PANNE...ALL AT ONCE, I WAS SEEING FRANKIE ON THE DAY HE'D RETURN! I COULD SEE HIM TALLER, HANDSOMER THAN WHEN HE LEFT--WITH A WARDROBE LIKE A MOVIE STAR'S! AND THE CAR, HE'D COME IN--IT WOULD BE SLEEK, SHINY, LUXURIOUS!

THAT FRANKIE BASSIN--I ALWAYS KNEW HE WOULD AMOUNT TO SOMETHING!

THE YOUNG WOMAN WHO GETS HIM SURE WILL BE LUCKY FOR THE REST OF HER DAYS!

MOM--DAD! I'VE JUST BOUGHT THIS PLACE FOR YOU! SURE--I'VE BEEN AWAY A LONG TIME, BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE UP FOR IT NOW!



YES--THAT
WOULD BE LIKE
FRANKIE, WARM-
HEARTED--
GENEROUS--
CONSIDERATE!
EVERYONE
AROUND HIM
WOULD SHARE
HIS PROSPERITY!
AND THEN HE'D
THROW A BIG
PARTY, AND I'D
COME UP TO
MEET HIM WITH
THE OTHERS!
HE'D GREET ME
WITH EQUAL DEF-
ERENCE AS THE
OTHERS, BUT HIS
EYES WOULD
TELL ME
DIFFERENTLY!

WELL--IT SURE IS
GOOD TO HAVE YOU
BACK IN TOWN,
FRANKIE!

FRANCIE--I--IT'S
REALLY YOU!

HE WANTS TO SEE ME LATER--
WHEN ALL THE OTHERS HAVE
GONE!

I'D WAIT ANXIOUSLY AS THE MINUTES OF THE EVENING
TICKED AWAY--AND I'D LEAVE, SAY GOOD NIGHT
WITH THE OTHERS! BUT THEN--OH, THEM, I'D RETURN!

--FRANKIE!

I WAS AFRAID YOU
WOULDN'T COME!

I LOVE YOU, FRANKIE--
I ALWAYS HAVE, EVERY
MINUTE YOU WERE
AWAY!

AND THEN WE'D KISS--AND THE
KISS WOULD BE SWEET, FERVENT,
TENDER--MAKING UP FOR ALL
THE WAITING AND DREAMING
AND HOPING!

HE'S REALLY GOING TO COME
BACK! IT WILL ALL BE JUST
LIKE THAT, I KNOW IT!

MY DARLING...
MY OWN
DARLING!



HOW COULD YOU
THINK THAT!
OH, FRANKIE!

IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
WE WERE JUST KIDS!
I WONDERED WHETHER
YOU'D STILL CARE!

FRANCIE--I'VE BEEN CALLING YOU! DON'T YOU HEAR ME? LEE IS OUTSIDE, IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE! IT'S A WONDER YOU DIDN'T HEAR HIS VOICE EITHER!

FRANCIE--FRANCIE, LOOK! I JUST PICKED UP THIS JALOPY! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

IT WAS IRONIC THAT LEE SHOULD APPEAR THEN, TOUSLED, DRESSED IN KNOCKABOUT CLOTHES-- AND STANDING BESIDE A BATTERED HEAP--WHILE EVEN NOW, THE VISION OF FRANKIE'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN STILL LINGERED IN MY MIND. HE ENTERED THE HOUSE, AND...

COME ON, HONEY-- GRAB A SWIMSUIT AND A SKIRT AND LET'S HIT FOR THE BEACH! IT'S LL BE GREAT!

I--I DON'T KNOW, LEE...I'M NOT MUCH IN THE MOOD FOR IT!

MOOD--SCHMOOD! LET'S GO, PRIMA DONNA! ONCE YOU GET THERE YOU WON'T BE SORRY! PICTURE IT-- THE WARM SUN, A PLUNGE INTO THE SURF!

ALL RIGHT-- I'LL GET MY THINGS!

IT WAS A LITTLE OUT OF SEASON--AND THE AIR WAS CRISP AND HAD A WINEY TANG OF ONCOMING AUTUMN, BUT THE WATER WAS WARM AND REFRESHING WHEN WE REACHED THE BEACH A HALF HOUR LATER! AS USUAL, LEE HAD ME LAUGHING!

DOWN YOU GO, MERMAID! INTO THE MURKY DEPTHS OF FATHER NEPTUNE'S DEN!

NO, LEE-- DON'T DUCK ME!

Pooh!
MEANIE!
YOU'LL DROWN
ME!

IT'S AN EXCUSE TO RESCUE YOU--AND HOLD YOU LIKE ---THIS!



AND SOON WE WERE LOLLING IN THE CLEAN, WHITE-BLEACHED SAND, WATCHING THE SEA GULLS WAFT THROUGH THE AIR! THEN, LEE BECAME SUDDENLY TENDER, AND....

DARLING -- LET'S GET MARRIED,
SET THE DATE RIGHT NOW!



-MARRIED!

MY DEAREST--I WANT
TO MAKE YOU MY WIFE!
WILL YOU MARRY ME?

YES--
OH, YES,
I WILL!

HERE WE WERE SPRAYLED
ON THE SAND
LIKE TWO IDLE
BEACHCOMBERS
--AND IT WAS
HERE THAT LEE
PROPOSED
MARRIAGE! I
FOUND MYSELF
A PART OF
AND OTHER
SCENE, UPON
A LUXURIOUS
TERRACE--
BEDECKED
WITH
FLOWERS--
WITH FRANKIE
BESIDE ME!

OHHH...IT'S AN ENCHANTED
WONDERLAND! I'VE NEVER
KNOWN ANYTHING TO BE
SO BEAUTIFUL!

IT HAD TO BE--
I'VE BEEN ARRANGING
IT FOR MONTHS, PLAN-
NING EVERY DETAIL!
IT'S THE SETTING FOR
A VERY IMPDRANT
MOMENT!



I WAS STARTLED OUT OF MY
REVERIE BY THE SUDDEN UN-
FAMILIAR SHARPNESS IN LEE'S
VOICE! HIS FACE WAS STRANGE-
LY PALE.

FRANCIE! SNAP OUT OF IT! I
KNOW WHO YOU'RE THINKING
ABOUT! I'M ASKING YOU TO
MARRY ME!--YOU'RE ACTING
LIKE A CHILD!



DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT
YOU'RE ONLY IDEALIZING
THIS FRANKIE CHARACTER,
REMEMBERING HIM AS THE
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
STAR--THE HOT DANCER
HE WAS! THAT WAS YEARS
AGO! IF

YOU...

YOU
HAVE
NO
RIGHT
TO INFER
THAT I
DON'T KNOW
MY OWN
MIND!

I'VE IGNORED THIS ATTITUDE IN
ALL ALONG--BECAUSE I EXPECT
YOU WOULD GROW OUT OF IT,
LEARN TO THINK LIKE
A GROWN WOMAN!
BUT I SEE I WAS
WRONG!

Y-YOU'RE
JEALOUS OF
HIM THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE SAYING
THESE THINGS!



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BECAME
LOUDER AND
MORE VEHE-
MENCE.
DESTROYING
ALL WE HAD
FOUND DURING
THE PAST
MONTHS IN A
MATTER OF
MINUTES! THE
LEE I HAD
ALWAYS KNOWN,
WHO HAD AL-
WAYS PAMPERED
ED MY WHIMS
—WAS GONE!
HERE WAS AN-
OTHER MAN—
FORGEFUL,
ANGERED,
INTRACTABLE!

I'VE GOT MYSELF A JOB APPOINT-
MENT ON A NEW GOVERNMENT ATOM
PROJECT! I WANTED YOU TO COME
ALONG WITH ME AS MY WIFE! BUT I
SEE NOW THAT WOULD BE A RESPONSI-
BILITY WAY ABOVE YOUR HEAD! IN A
WAY—I'M GLAD I FOUND THIS OUT
NOW!

IF YOU WANT ME TO DROP
YOU OFF AT YOUR PLACE—
COME ON! AS FOR THE REST—
WE CAN FORGET IT!

NEVER MIND
TAKING ME HOME—
I CAN FIND MY WAY!
—GOODBYE!



REMAINED ON THE BEACH FOR A LONG TIME AFTER HE LEFT,
AND TO TURN MY HEART AWAY FROM THE GRIEF THAT WEIGHTED
IT—I OPENED MY MIND ANEW TO DREAMS—DREAMS OF FRANKIE!
THE DAY FOR HIS EXPECTED ARRIVAL WAS DRAWING NEAR! THEN
ONE EVENING . . .



HERE IN THE SHADOWS, I KNEW
ONLY HIS VOICE! BUT WHEN HIS ARMS
HELD ME—AND HIS LIPS HARSHLY
CLOSED UPON MINE—SOMETHING
DULLED INSIDE ME! I TURNED ON
THE LIGHT AND SAW HIM! HEAVY,
SLOVENLY—BALDING—AND CRUDE!



FRANKIE—I—I
CAN'T BELIEVE
I'M STANDING
BEFORE YOU!

YEAH—A LOT OF
WATER'S RUN UNDER
THE BRIDGE ALL RIGHT!
TELL YOU WHY I
DROPPED IN—I GOT A
COUPLE OF BIG
DEALS PEND-
ING AND I
NEED SOME
DOUGH!



I—I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!

MY OLD MAN'S
INSURANCE CAME
DUE AND HE'S GOT
DOUGH! I DON'T
WANT IT TO LOOK LIKE
THAT'S WHAT I CAME FOR!
IF YOU LEND ME A FEW
BUCKS TO CLEAN MYSELF
UP, BUY A NEW SUIT...



BUT IF YOU
SHOULD TAKE
HIS MONEY
A-AND LOSE
IT!
AHH... THEY'VE BEEN
GETTING ALONG
WITHOUT THAT DOUGH
FOR YEARS! IT WON'T
MAKE MUCH DIFFER-
ENCE! I GOT A REAL
ANGLE FOR THAT LITTLE
BANKROLL!

MY HANDS WERE TREMBLING!
INSIDE ME, I FELT AS THOUGH
MY HEART HAD CEASED ITS BEAT-
ING! I GAVE HIM THE MONEY.
THEN...

THIS IS GREAT, BABY! I
FIGURED I COULD COUNT ON YOU!
MAYBE WHEN I HIT A BIG ONE--
I'LL INVITE YOU DOWN TO THE
CITY FOR A COUPLE OF
MONTHS OF FUN!
SO LONG!

... SOB... OH, SOB... W-WHAT AN
IDIOT I'VE BEEN! AND ALL THIS
TIME I... OH, SOB... I'VE GOT
TO CALL LEE-- RIGHT AWAY!



LEE--? OH, MRS. KILER -- I WANT LEE!
HE'S WHAT? HE'S LEFT FOR THE DEPOT?
OH, NO! IT'S THAT JOB
OUT OF TOWN!

LEEL FELT AS THOUGH I WANTED TO DIE-- TO STOP THE TOR-
MENTING THOUGHTS THAT WERE MERCILESSLY TEARING
AT ME! IF HE'D LEFT-- HE'D NEVER SEE ME AGAIN! HE'D NEVER
UNDERSTAND! I DROVE TO THE DEPOT-- PRAYING ALL THE WAY!
THEN I SAW HIM...



... SOB... OH, LEE... I'VE MADE SUCH A
TERRIBLE MISTAKE! DON'T TURN ME
OUT OF YOUR LIFE! WRITE TO ME...
GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE! MAYBE
YOU'LL FEEL AS YOU ONCE
DID... SOB...

TEARS
BLURRED
MY EYES--
I STRAINED
TO SEE THE
EXPRESSION
UPON HIS
FACE BUT I
COULD NOT!
WAS IT PITY--
CONTempt--
OR--?
THEN, I FELT
MYSELF
DRAWN UP
INTO HIS
ARMS!--THE
TRAIN WAS
MOVING!



THE END



Mrs. Ruth
Long

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